

Galloway Lodges

At Galloway Lodges in south-west Scotland, we appreciate our guests, in the same way as we appreciate the beautiful scenery, the castles, the wildlife and the sporting activities that abound in this delightful region. So we have prepared this brochure to help you plan your holiday. No matter whether you prefer to be active and enjoy hillwalking, cycling or golf, or whether you prefer the gentler activities of birdwatching, fishing or paddling in the sea, there's something for everyone in Dumfries and Galloway.



GALLOWAY AND
SOUTHERN AYRSHIRE
BIOSPHERE



Guard against fire when you're enjoying the outdoors: read the Scottish Outdoor Access Code

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Castles and Historic Sites



Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Caerlaverock Castle

Although in ruins now, it is possible to explore Caerlaverock and enjoy a fascinating siege warfare exhibition. Children will love the castle-themed adventure park and nature trail and there is a tearoom to enjoy after your busy day here.



Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Drumlanrig Castle

One of Britain's oldest, best and immaculately kept castles, Drumlanrig Castle is home to the Duke of Buccleuch's art, furniture and silver collection and offers gardens, cycling routes, bike hire, castle tours, an adventure playground and tearoom.



Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Carsluith Castle

The grounds and ruins of this 16th-century L-shaped tower house that possibly started out as a simple oblong tower in the mid-1400s afford stunning views over Wigtown Bay to the old county town of Wigtown. For thirsty visitors, a small café / deli is situated in the grounds.



Image courtesy of Great Value Websites

Threave Castle

To reach this island fortress, you will be ferried across the River Dee in a small boat which only adds to the attraction of this imposing tower house. It is possible to combine a visit to Threave Castle with a tour of Threave Gardens to make for a wonderful day out while staying at Galloway Lodges. And, of course, there is a lovely tearoom to rest in after your visit.

Castles and Historic Sites (contd.)



Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Sweetheart Abbey

The Cistercian Sweetheart Abbey is a shrine to human and divine love, founded in the 13th century by Lady Devorguilla, grieving widow of Lord John Balliol. Much of the buildings remain and are an awe-inspiring site to visit. The Abbey Cottage Tearoom is nearby.



Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Cardoness Castle

Cardoness is a well-preserved tower house standing on an elevated position near Gatehouse-of-Fleet. Nearby Cardoness Shore offers several sandy bays to keep the children amused while Gatehouse is a pretty village with several independent shops and tearooms that are worthy of a visit.



Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

McLellan's Castle

Sir Thomas McLellan's castle is a Jacobean tower house built in the late 1500s on the site of the Convent of Greyfriars. Of especial interest here is one of the rare remaining examples of a Laird's Lug behind the fireplace of the Great Hall where the Lord could hide to listen to what his guests were saying. The castle is in the delightful town of Kirkcudbright, known as Scotland's Artists' Town.



Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Castle of St John

Situated in the town centre of Stranraer, the Castle of St John is a mediaeval tower house built around 1500. The Castle houses an activity room for families and children and shows videos and reconstructions of its various landowners. There are numerous cafes in the vicinity to end your day in.

Museums



Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Robert Burns House

Rabbie Burns, Scotland's national poet, was born in Alloway in nearby Ayrshire, but also spent many years in Dumfries and Galloway. The Globe Inn was his favourite drinking "howff" and the home where he died is now a museum, Robert Burns House.



Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Ellisland Farm

Robert Burns built Ellisland Farm to the north of Dumfries for his young wife, Jean Armour and their children and wrote about a quarter of his life's works here before moving into Dumfries town. Ellisland Farm and Museum are open to the public.



Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Camera Obscura

The history of the land and people of the Dumfries region is told in Dumfries Museum which is also home to the Camera Obscura, allowing visitors an all-round view of the town. The Museum is housed in an 18th-century windmill.



Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Moat Brae

Moat Brae is a stunning and beautifully restored Georgian house in the centre of Dumfries that was home to author J M Barrie, creator of Peter Pan. His experiences in the Moat Brae garden and in the wings of the Theatre Royal helped to shape his future career.

Children's Play Areas and Amusements



Image courtesy of the Cocoabean Company

Cocoa Bean Chocolate Factory

The Cocoabean Company offers an original visitor attraction with interactive chocolate workshops, an indoor soft play area, extensive outdoor play, the Cocoabean Café, factory shop and more! Just outside Twynholm, birthplace of racing driver David Coulthard, this is an excellent day out for all the family.



Image courtesy of Hetland Dino Park

Hetland Dino Park

Discover a world of dinosaurs and an extensive soft play area seven miles south of Dumfries where young and old will marvel at the large dino sculptures on display at Hetland Garden Centre. There are picnic tables in the treehouse play area.



Image courtesy of Dalscone Farm Fun

Dalscone Farm Fun

Dalscone Farm, on the outskirts of Dumfries, offers indoor soft play, a Farm Park where visitors can meet the animals and play outdoors on bumper boats, go-carts or the alpine slide. There is also a huge café. Dalscone is closed on Sundays.



Image courtesy of Mabie Farm Park

Mabie Farm Park

The Farmers' Den, the Choo Choo Express, feeding the animals including sheep, Shetland ponies and Kune Kune pigs, messing about in the Straw Barn or zipping down the Astroslide – what's not to love at this large park within easy travelling distance of Galloway Lodges.

Golfing



Image courtesy of Colvend Golf Club

Colvend Golf Club

The nearest course to Galloway Lodges is the 18-hole Colvend Golf Club on the Solway Coast with spectacular views across to the Cumbrian Fells and the Isle of Man.



Image courtesy of Southernness Golf Club

Southernness Golf Club

Considered to be one of Scotland's finest golf courses, Southernness was designed by Scottish golf course architect, Philip Mackenzie Ross and welcomes members and visitors alike. It also offers a restaurant that is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Image courtesy of Dalbeattie Golf Club

Dalbeattie Golf Club

The Dalbeattie course is a 9-hole parkland course with stunning views of the surrounding Urr Valley and is a haven for wildlife including birds of prey fly, deer and woodland songbirds. It provides an excellent challenge for golfers of all ages and abilities.



Image courtesy of VisitScotland

Craigieknowes Golf Club

Craigieknowes is a 9-hole, par-3 golf course barely four miles by car from Galloway Lodges with many short, but challenging holes. It is also less than a mile from the attractive coastal village of Kippford with its bobbing yachts sitting on the Urr Water.

There is an abundance of golf clubs throughout Dumfries and Galloway, most with absolutely stunning views such as [Wigtownshire County Golf Club](#) situated on Luce Bay off the A75 Euroroute to Stranraer and others with regular visits from the natives – the deer, that is! – such as [Newton Stewart Golf Club](#).

Other nearby clubs include [Castle Douglas, Dumfries and County, Dumfries and Galloway](#) and [The Crichton](#), while over to the west, golfers will enjoy [Portpatrick Dunskey](#), not least for its views over the North Channel to Ireland. The area enjoys a temperate climate due to the nearby Gulf Stream, so that the Dunskey 18-hole and the Dinvin 9-hole courses are playable all year round.

Fishing



Galloway Forest Park

For up-to-date information on fishing permits and where and when to fish throughout the Galloway Forest Park, please visit the Forestry and Land Scotland website.

The nearest shop for fishing tackle is M McCowan & Son in Dalbeattie.



Image courtesy of Alan Halkett

Powillimount Beach, Southernness

This is a beautiful beach for walks, with unique rock formations and pools to explore – great fun for adults and children alike. There is free parking available and opportunities for fishing off the rocks when the tide is in.

Click the image or heading to access the tide charts.



Image courtesy of Greenhill Fishery

Greenhill Fishery

Try bait fishing for rainbow trout at Greenhill just a few miles from Galloway Lodges.

Greenhill also offers instruction and children from age 6 upwards can learn to fish



Image courtesy of Glenquicken Farm

Glenquicken Troutmasters Fishery

This 4.5-acre fly fishing lochan sits amongst magnificent scenery in the shadow of Cairnsmore of Fleet near Newton Stewart and is a registered Troutmasters Fishery with monthly competitions.



Image courtesy of Fairgirth Trout Loch

Fairgirth Trout Loch

Fairgirth Loch is about two acres in size and offers fly fishing from the bank or boat for rainbow, tiger and brown trout. It lies about 3 minutes' drive from Galloway Lodges or a mere 15 minutes on foot and is open seven days a week.

Mountain Biking



Image courtesy Forestry & Land Scotland

7Stanes Mountain Biking Trails

The 7Stanes are world-class award-winning mountain biking trails spread across the south of Scotland. There is a wide range of trails available to suit beginners, families and experts. At each location, you will find a “stane” (stone) sculpture.

The Dumfries and Galloway locations can be found at:

- Dalbeattie Forest
- Mabie Forest
- Forest of Ae
- Kirroughtree Forest
- Glentool in Galloway Forest Park

Galloway Forest Dark Sky Park

And if you're a stargazer, or a city dweller wanting to be amazed, stay late after your visit to Kirroughtree or the Galloway Forest Park which is the UK's first **Dark Sky Park**. The area is sparsely populated and efforts have been made to control light pollution here, so the night skies are really black. The result is that it is possible to observe more than 7,000 stars and planets with the naked eye, while the Milky Way is usually easy to see.



Image courtesy of MPG Cycles

MPG Cycles

This friendly shop in nearby Dalbeattie offers cycle and helmet hire as well as repairs so that you can enjoy the 7Stanes trails.

Beaches



Image courtesy of Great Value Websites

Sandyhills

Sandyhills is our closest beach, popular with families and dog walkers. It is a large, clean sandy beach with shallow waters, making it the ideal place for children to paddle or explore the rock pools. It offers extensive views over the Solway Firth to the Cumbrian coast.



Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Rockcliffe

This small beach surrounded by rocks and in front of the pretty village of Rockcliffe is only 3 ½ miles from Galloway Lodges and can be reached on bus service 372A. Children will have a wonderful time here rock pooling and dogs will love running along the beach. Rockcliffe is part of a National Scenic Area.



Image courtesy Solway Firth Partnership

Mossyard

There are actually two linked beaches at Mossyard just over 30 miles from Galloway Lodges, family friendly, dog friendly, with lots of sand to make sandcastles and rocks for rock pooling. Mossyard is another favourite Dumfries and Galloway beach that both adults and children alike will love. Plenty car parking space.



Image courtesy of Ordnance Survey

Carrick Bay

The beach at Carrick Bay Beach is both sandy and secluded with a sloping shoreline. Coupled with the calm waters here mean, Carrick Bay provides a safe environment for children who can paddle to their heart's content or go rock pooling while adults can admire the surrounding scenery.

Gardens



Image courtesy of Great Value Websites

Logan Botanic Garden

Logan Garden is considered to be Scotland's most exotic garden as it is able to cultivate some unusual plants thanks to the nearby Gulf Stream which provides extra warmth here. Logan is a regional garden of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and is home to a walled garden, a fish pond a plethora of exotic plants as well as the delightful Potting Shed Bistro.



Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Glenwhan Gardens and Arboretum

Glenwhan Gardens offer stunning sea views across to the Isle of Man, Luce Bay and the Mull of Galloway. With several lochans, a numbered tree trail, plant sales, a duck pond and a tearoom, Glenwhan offers plenty to see and do for the whole family.



Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Castle Kennedy Gardens

There are 75 acres of extensively landscaped gardens to explore within the grounds of the stunning Scottish Baronial style Lochinch Castle. The gardens are home to a vast collection of rhododendrons and many tree-lined avenues dedicated to one particular species.



Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Threave Garden and Nature Reserve

Threave Garden near Castle Douglas is a National Trust for Scotland property where you can see not only a selection of "garden rooms" showcasing different planting schemes, but also scan the skies for ospreys, red kite and peregrine falcons and spot red squirrels and wildfowl or play in the Discovery Garden. Finish off your day with a visit to either the Stables Café or the Terrace Café.

[View the Scotland's Gardens Scheme website here.](#)

Wildlife



Image courtesy of Great Value Websites

Bainloch Deer Park

This wonderful deer park is within walking distance of Galloway Lodges in the hills overlooking the Solway Coast. It offers 4x4 tours of the Park where you can see Japanese sika, wild roe deer and red deer. Photography tours are also on offer now and there is a lovely Visitor Centre and café where you can wind up your Bainloch tour.



Mersehead Nature Reserve

Sitting on the north shore of the Solway coast, Mersehead is an extensive wetland and saltmarsh area, a haven for breeding waders, wintering waterfowl and year-round bird and wildlife-watching. Also of interest are the natterjack toads.



Image courtesy of Great Value Websites

Caerlaverock National Nature Reserve

Caerlaverock – or land of the lark – provides a home with mudflats and salt marsh (merse) for birds such as barnacle geese, the bar tailed godwit and knot. The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust Centre is also located adjacent to this beautiful National Nature Reserve. A must-see is the rangers feeding the swans.

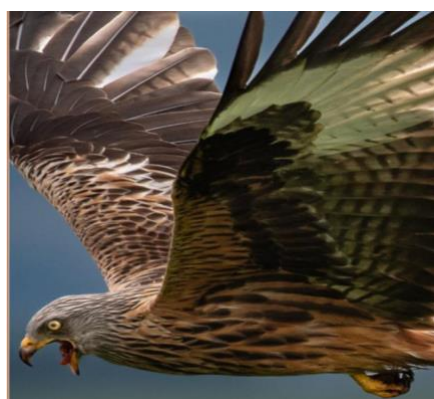


Image courtesy of Andy Heyward

Red Kite Centre, Bellymack Hill Farm

Red Kite were reintroduced into Dumfries and Galloway in the early 2000s, followed by the establishment of a Red Kite Trail. To view these beautiful birds up close, a visit to the Red Kite Feeding Station at Bellymack Farm near Laurieston at feeding times is an absolute must. Open all year round.

Cinemas



Image courtesy of Lonsdale Cinema Annan

Lonsdale Cinema

This is a family-owned friendly little cinema a short drive from Galloway Lodges with two screens showing the latest blockbuster movies and live screenings by satellite of performances from the likes of the Royal Shakespeare Company and the London Opera House. There is ample free parking.



Image courtesy of Robert Burns Centre

Robert Burns Centre Film Theatre

This is a wonderful cinema in Dumfries town centre which shows not only some of the latest offerings, but also includes screenings of live ballet or theatre performances and has a Baby Club, a Children's Club and a Tween Club! There is also a small gift shop with many Burns-related souvenirs available.



Image courtesy of Billy McCrorie

The Fullarton Theatre, Castle Douglas

About 15 miles' drive from Galloway Lodges, the Fullarton is a cinema and theatre in Scotland's Food Town, showing not only the latest film releases, but also opera, ballet and live music performances via satellite link.

Food and Drink



Image courtesy of The Beagle

The Beagle Country Pub

How handy is this? A restaurant / pub right on your holiday lodge doorstep! The Beagle even serves breakfast at the weekend and offers a varied, tasty menu, with additional daily specials where everything is prepared in-house and fresh to order. Check the website for opening days and times. Children and dogs are welcome along with cyclists and walkers and, of course, guests staying at Galloway Lodges.



Image courtesy of The Granite Kitchen

The Granite Kitchen

In nearby Dalbeattie with ample street parking and a car park, you will find The Granite Kitchen, a small family run café, where everything is homemade and cooked to order. Let yourself be tempted by their delicious cakes. Outside catering also available for events large and small such as a small family buffet and open for Sunday brunch.



Image courtesy of The Chip Shop

The Chip Shop

Purported to be the best in the vicinity, The Chip Shop is certainly popular with locals and offers a wide range of chip shop staples. You can't beat a good fish supper! This is another town centre eatery with plenty parking nearby.



Image courtesy of The Rose Garden

The Rose Garden at The Ship Inn

The Rose Garden on Dalbeattie's High Street offers a wide range of delicious Chinese dishes for takeaway. An online ordering service is now available for collection within 15 minutes.

.../Food and Drink (contd)

Food and Drink (cont'd)



Image courtesy of Bainloch Cafe

Bainloch Deer Park Visitor Centre and Café

You don't have to do the Deer Safari to be able to eat a delicious lunch or partake of a coffee and cake at nearby Bainloch Deer Park Café, open from 10am to 4pm daily. Enjoy panoramic views across the park during your meal. No appointment or booking is necessary and there is plenty of free parking available.



Image courtesy of Luigi's Italian

Luigi's Italian Restaurant

This popular family-run restaurant offers both dine-in and takeaway menus with authentic Italian pizza and pasta dishes on the menu as well as meat dishes and a wide range of fish and seafood choices. On Wednesdays till Sundays, sit-in guests can choose from a 2-course Happy Hour menu and there is a wide range of wines to complement your meal.



Image courtesy of The Tee Room

The Tee Room at Craigieknowes Golf Course

Visitors to the area can avail themselves of the Tee Room with its range of delicious home-baked cakes, toasties, teas, coffees and smoothies while enjoying the stunning views across the Golf Course. The Tee Room is also home to a range of locally made jewellery, candles and other gifts and supply the local creamy and delicious Roan's Dairy milk.



Image courtesy of The Steamboat Inn

The Steamboat Inn, Carsethorn

The Steamboat is a family-run award-winning restaurant situated on the Solway Coast with stunning views over the water to Cumbria. The emphasis here is on using fresh local produce with seafood platters a house speciality.

There are so many great restaurants, tea rooms, cafés and takeaways in the area, as well as catering firms such as [Caterbirds](#) and [Cartner Catering](#), that it would be impossible to name them all.

There are also numerous small supermarkets in Dalbeattie including The Co-operative and Spar, or you can order from Spar's Snappy Shopper online for delivery within the hour.

Local Transport and Emergency Contacts



Image courtesy of Stagecoach Buses

Dumfries and Galloway Bus Timetables

There are many bus services available from Dumfries to outlying towns and villages and as far as Stranraer in the west and Langholm in the east via Gretna Green, as well as services to Glasgow and Edinburgh. The local service run by Houston's Minicoaches runs from Dumfries to Sandyhills to Dalbeattie. Leave the car behind and enjoy the scenery on the bus!



Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Dumfries Railway Station Timetables

Dumfries connects to Glasgow Central Station for journeys further north and to Carlisle where onward connections to Manchester and London can be made.



Image courtesy of Hendo's Taxis

Taxis

The nearest taxi service to Galloway Lodges is Hendo's Taxis in Dalbeattie, phone number 07752 728558.



Emergency Contacts

Police Scotland: Call **999** in an absolute emergency or **101** if your issue does not require an immediate response.

PLACES OF WORSHIP

- Colvend, Southwick and Kirkbean Parish
- Dalbeattie & Kirkgunzeon Parish Church – Church of Scotland
- Christ Church Dalbeattie – Scottish Episcopalian
- St Peter's Church – Roman Catholic
- Kingdom Hall of Jehova's Witnesses
- Galloway Christian Centre, Dalbeattie

SWIMMING POOLS

- Castle Douglas Swimming Pool and Fitness Suite
- DG1 Leisure Centre, Dumfries, has three pools including the Pirates' Pool for younger children along with a Fitness Centre
- Although there is a swimming pool on site at Barend, Galloway Lodges does not participate in the Owners' Scheme and the pool is therefore not available to our guests
- Don't forget the beautiful stretch of beach at Sandyhills, just a few minutes' walk from Galloway Lodges.